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REV. 2/01

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET-NUMBER
08015.0004

U.S. APPLICATION NO
(If known, use 37 CFR 1.5)

09/868730

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO
PCT/KR00/00860

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
August 4, 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
June 1, 2000

TITLE OF INVENTION

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING
ELECTRONIC MAIL INCLUDING GRAPHIC

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

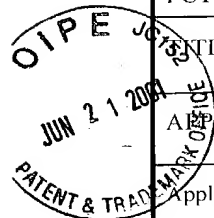
Yong-Tae KIM

Applicant(s) herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154 (d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A Substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154 (d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application 35 U.S.C. 154 (d)(4)
20. ☒ Other items or information:
 - a. ☒ Request for Approval of Drawing Change
 - b. ☒ Appendix to PCT Preliminary Amendment
 - c. ☐



ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
08015.0004

21. ☒ The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO.

\$1000.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO

\$860.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO

....\$710.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)

. \$690.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4)

..\$100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$1000.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).

☐ 20 ☐ 30

§

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total Claims	27	- 20 =	7	x \$18 00	\$126 00	
Independent Claims	13	-3 =	10	x \$80 00	\$800 00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ \$270 00	\$	

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)

+\$270 00

§

TOTAL OF THE ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$1926 00

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27 The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/3.

§

SUBTOTAL =

\$963 00

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than 3 months from the earliest priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

☐ 20 ☐ 30

§

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$963.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21 (h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property +

§

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$963.00

Amount to be refunded

§

charged

§

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 963.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 06-0916 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3315

DATED: June 21, 2001

SIGNATURE

NAME/REGISTRATION NO.

Ernest F. Chapman/25,961

PATENT
Customer Number 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08015.0004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re National Stage of International)
Application No. PCT/KR00/00860 of:)
Yong-Tae KIM) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Application No.: to be determined) Examiner: Not yet assigned
PCT Filed: August 4, 2000)
Priority Date: June 1, 2000)

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
SENDING AND RECEIVING
ELECTRONIC MAIL INCLUDING
GRAPHIC

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, first full paragraph, please replace lines 5-7 with the following:

The present invention relates to a method and system for transmitting/receiving a
picture mail, and more particularly relates to a method and system for writing a picture
mail having various inserted pictures.

On page 1, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 15-16 with the following:

Also, another problem with the e-mail method is that the effectiveness of advertising may be diminished because various advertising pictures cannot be inserted into the e-mail.

On page 1, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 19-23 with:

The present invention is intended to overcome the above-mentioned disadvantages of an electronic mail (e-mail) method. Therefore, the present invention provides methods and systems for transmitting/receiving a picture mail by using a communication network that provides various messages made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.

On page 1, sixth paragraph, please replace line 24-page 2, lines 1-2 with:

The present invention also provides methods and systems for improving the effectiveness of advertising since various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text message.

On page 3, second full paragraph, please replace lines 14-20 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving at least one selected from a group of a text message, a selected picture list and a selected picture from a user terminal, means for retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list, means for generating a picture mail out of the

text message by inserting the selected picture, and means for transmitting the plurality of retrieved pictures and the generated picture mail to said user terminal.

On page 3, fourth paragraph, please replace lines 23-page 4, lines 1-3 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a designated letter string and a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, and means for storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

On page 4, first full paragraph, please replace lines 4-12 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving at least one selected from a group of a text message, a conversion request and a selected picture from a user terminal, means for storing a plurality of pictures, means for successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the conversion request and for retrieving the picture from said means for storing, means for converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and means for transmitting the retrieved pictures and the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

On page 5, first full paragraph, please replace lines 4-10 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail. The apparatus comprises a storage device, and a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor, and said processor operative with said program to receive a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, receive a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal, and store link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

On page 6, fourth paragraph, please replace line 24-page 7, lines 1-5 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is a method for generating sound. The method comprises the steps of detecting an approaching signal within a predetermined area, the approaching signal being generated from an input means coupled to a user terminal and the center position of the predetermined area of a picture, retrieving a predetermined sound corresponding to the picture based on the approaching signal, and generating the retrieved sound.

On page 7, at line 6, please add:

--One advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by using a communication network is that various messages may be made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.



Another advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by using a communication network is that the effectiveness of advertising may be improved because various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text message.--

On page 8, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 12-17 with:

A sender logs on the picture mail server by using the user computer 110 coupled to the communication network. The sender writes a specific message and requests the picture mail server to transmit it after a recipient's electronic mail address is inputted. Then, the picture mail server transmits the message to the recipient. The message (mail) that the sender wants to send includes text data, graphic data, image data and similar data. A detailed description will be disclosed with illustrations.

On page 8, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 18-21 with:

Also, the recipient may read the received message by using a mail program (for example, the Outlook Express) included in the user computer 110 coupled to the communication network or by accessing a specific site (for example, Yahoo® (<http://www.yahoo.co.kr>)) that provides an e-mail service.

On page 8, seventh paragraph, please replace line 24-page 9, lines 1-4 with:

Referring to FIG. 2, the picture mail server receives an access request from the user computer (terminal) (Step 210). Then, the picture mail server transmits a web page with which the sender may input a text message (Step 220). Step 310 may further

include the steps of receiving accessing data including a user identifier and a password and certifying the accessing data.

On page 9, first full paragraph, please replace lines 5-10 with:

The picture mail server receives a text message from the sender's terminal (Step 230). The text message is a message composed of letters. The text message may be generated on a display device (for example, a monitor). The picture mail server determines whether or not a picture request is received (Step 240). The picture request is a request for inserting a specific picture in the text message. If the picture request is received, the picture mail server performs Step 250. Otherwise, it performs Step 260.

On page 9, second full paragraph, please replace lines 11-16 with:

At Step 250, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of predetermined picture lists to the sender terminal and receives a selected picture list from the sender terminal. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures that correspond to the selected picture list to the sender terminal and receives a selected picture that the sender selects among the plurality of pictures from the sender terminal. A detailed description of Step 250 follows.

On page 9, third full paragraph, please replace lines 17-page 10, lines 1-3 with:

The picture mail server generates a plurality of factors (for example, a character collection, time/season/star, action and emotion, memorial day and a day of the week) on a display device of the sender terminal (for example, a computer monitor). If the

At Step 260, the picture mail server determines whether or not writing the picture mail is completed. If writing the picture mail is completed, the picture mail server performs Step 270. Otherwise, it returns to Step 230.

At Step 270, the picture mail server generates a preview of the picture mail. At Step 280, the picture mail server determines whether or not a transmission request for the picture mail is received. If the transmission request for the picture mail is received, the picture mail server terminates the procedure. Otherwise, it returns to Step 230.

Referring to FIG. 3, the picture mail server receives an access request from the user computer (terminal) (Step 310). Then, the picture mail server transmits a web

The picture mail server receives a text message from the sender's terminal (Step 330). The text message may be generated on the display device. The picture mail server determines whether or not a picture request is received (Step 340). If the picture request is received, the picture mail server performs Step 350. Otherwise, it performs Step 380.

At Step 350, the picture mail server retrieves a predetermined letter string included in the text message. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures corresponding to the retrieved letter string to the sender's terminal and receives a selected picture among the transmitted pictures from the sender's terminal (Step 360).

At Step 370, the picture mail server determines whether or not there is any predetermined letter string (Step 370). If there is some predetermined letter string, the picture mail server performs Step 350. Otherwise, it performs Step 380. A detailed description of Step 330 - Step 370 follows. In this case, the predetermined letter string

is 'love' and 'friendship' and the text message is 'Love and friendship, which one is more important?'.

On page 11, second full paragraph, please replace lines 8-12 with:

At Step 350, the picture mail server retrieves the predetermined letter string, 'love', out of the text message. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures corresponding to the predetermined letter string 'love' to the sender's terminal. The sender selects a picture among the transmitted pictures displayed on the display device of the sender's terminal.

On page 11, third full paragraph, please replace lines 13-15 with:

Also, at Step 370, the picture mail server determines whether or not there is any predetermined letter string. The picture mail server retrieves the predetermined letter string 'friendship' and returns to Step 350.

On page 11, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 16-18 with:

At Step 380, the picture mail server determines whether or not writing the picture mail is completed. If writing the picture mail is completed, the picture mail server previews the picture mail (Step 390). Otherwise, it receives a text message (Step 330).

On page 11, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 19-22 with:

At Step 270, the picture mail server generates a preview of the picture mail. At Step 400, the picture mail server determines whether or not a transmission request for

the picture mail is received. If the transmission request for the picture mail is received, the picture mail server terminates the procedure. Otherwise, it returns to Step 330.

On page 12, first full paragraph, please replace lines 1-5 with:

Referring to FIG. 4, a writing picture mail page includes a transmitting/receiving data frame 440, a message frame 450, a picture factor selection frame 460, a picture selection frame 470, and an e-mail transmitting data frame 480. Also, the writing picture mail page further includes an advertising picture frame 490 for inputting a specific advertising picture.

On page 12, second full paragraph, please replace lines 6-9 with:

The transmitting/receiving data frame 440 may include an 'e-mail's title' factor, a 'sender's e-mail address' factor, a 'recipient's e-mail address' factor, and a 'attach file' factor. In the case of certifying the accessing data (user ID and password), the 'sender's e-mail address' factor 440 may be omitted.

On page 12, third full paragraph, please replace lines 1-2 with:

The sender may input a message in the message from 450. Also, text data or picture data may be inserted in the message frame 450.

On page 12, fifth paragraph, please replace lines 22-page 13, lines 1-4 with:

Also, the picture factor selection frame 460 may further include a 'picture link' factor for linking the predetermined letter string and the specific picture in accordance

The e-mail transmitting data frame 480 may include a 'preview' factor and a 'sending reservation' factor. When the sender inputs a date and a time for sending reservation and clicks on the 'sending reservation' factor, the picture mail server transfers a picture mail at the date and the time. Also, when the sender clicks on the 'preview' factor, an illustration as in FIG. 5 is displayed on a display device in the sender's terminal.

The writing picture mail page may further include an advertising picture frame 490. A predetermined letter string included in the text message is converted into a specific advertising picture by using the advertising picture frame 490, regardless of the sender's intention. Also, when the sender clicks on the 'preview' factor or a 'transmitting' factor, a plurality of predetermined pictures may be displayed on the display device included in the sender's terminal and selected by the sender. A detailed description of the 'message' frame 450 and the 'advertising picture' frame 490 follows.

On page 14, first full paragraph, please replace lines 1-6 with:

Referring to FIG. 4 again, pictures of 'McDonald's®' and 'Pizza Hut®' are generated in the 'advertising picture' frame 490. When the sender inputs a predetermined letter string (for example, 'hamburger' or 'McDonald's®'), the picture of 'McDonald's®' is generated regardless of the sender's intention. Similarly, when the sender inputs a predetermined letter string (for example, 'pizza'), the picture of 'Pizza Hut®' is generated regardless of the sender's intention.

On page 14, second full paragraph, please replace lines 7-8 with:

FIG. 5 is an illustration of a preview picture mail in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention.

On page 14, third full paragraph, please replace lines 9-12 with:

Referring to FIG. 5, a preview picture mail page may include the picture factor selection frame 460, the e-mail transmitting data frame 480, a preview frame 500 and a mail amendment frame 510.

On page 14, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 18-23 with:

When the recipient receives the picture mail, an approaching signal is generated if a cursor from an inputting means (for example, a mouse), included in the recipient's terminal, is put within a predetermined area. The center of the predetermined area is a position of an advertising picture. The picture mail server generates an advertisement

(for example, a 'McDonald's®' song) by using an output device (for example, a speaker) included in the recipient's terminal.

On page 15, first full paragraph, please replace lines 2-7 with:

Referring to FIG. 6, a writing picture mail page may include a transmitting/receiving data frame 540, a message frame 550, a picture factor selection frame 560, a picture selection frame 570, and an e-mail transmitting data frame. Also, the writing picture mail page may further include an advertising picture frame for inserting a specific advertising picture into a text message.

On page 15, second full paragraph, please replace lines 8-17 with:

The email transmitting data frame may include a 'converting' factor, a 'preview' factor, a 'transmitting picture mail' factor and a 'sending reservation' factor. If the sender clicks on the 'converting' factor, the picture mail server retrieves a predetermined letter string and generates a plurality of pictures corresponding to the predetermined letter string. Also, in the picture selection frame 570, a 'undo' factor and a 'user's picture' factor are generated as well as a plurality of pictures. The sender may select a picture among the generated pictures, undo the selection by using the 'undo' factor or insert a picture stored in the storage device included in the sender's terminal by using the 'user's picture' factor. Since a predetermined letter string is not retrieved, the sender may convert some letters into a specific picture by using the picture factor selection frame 560.

On page 15, third full paragraph, please replace lines 18-21 with:

A picture mail transmitting/receiving program on a self-processing basis may be provided in a storage device in the sender's terminal in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this case, a plurality of pictures may be applied to pictures stored in the storage device in the sender's terminal.

On page 15, fourth paragraph, please replace lines 22-page 16, lines 1-2 with:

A picture mail writing program on a self-processing basis may be provided in a storage device in the sender's terminal in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this case, the sender's terminal is coupled to the picture mail server via the communication network, and the picture mail server performs transmitting/receiving the picture mail made by the picture mail writing program.

On page 16, please delete lines 7-13.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 11-15, 16, 17, 20-22 and 27 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a text message from a user terminal;

receiving a selected picture list from among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal;

retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;

transmitting the retrieved pictures to said user terminal;

receiving a selected picture from said user terminal; and

generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving a predetermined letter string in the text message; and

converting the letter string into a predetermined picture to thereby generate an advertisement.

7. (Amended) A method for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network;

receiving a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal; and

storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

11. (Amended) A method for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a text message from a user terminal;

receiving a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal;

successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message according to a predetermined manner corresponding to the converting request;

successively transmitting a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal;

successively receiving a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal;

converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

transmitting the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

12. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

means for receiving at least one selected from a group of a text message, a selected picture list and a selected picture from a user terminal;

means for retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;

means for generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture; and

means for transmitting the plurality of retrieved pictures and the generated picture mail to said user terminal.

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said receiving means receives a position whereto the picture is inserted and a completion notice of writing the text message from said user terminal.

14. (Amended) An apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising:

means for receiving a designated letter string and a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network; and

means for storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

means for receiving at least one selected from a group of a text message, a converting request and a selected picture from a user terminal;

means for storing a plurality of pictures;

means for successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message in a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request and for retrieving the picture from said means for storing;

means for converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

means for transmitting the retrieved pictures and the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

16. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

a storage device; and
a processor coupled to said storage drive;
said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor; and
said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from user terminal, to receive a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal, to retrieve a plurality of pictures from a storage device corresponding to the selected picture list, to transmit the retrieved pictures to said user terminal, and to generate a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

17. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, said processor further operative with said program to retrieve a predetermined letter string in the text message and convert the letter string into a predetermined picture for advertisement purposes.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising:

a storage device; and
a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing

a program for controlling said processor;

said processor operative with said program to receive a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, to receive a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal, and to store link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

21. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor coupled to said storage device;

said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor; and

said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from a user terminal, to receive a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal, to successively retrieve a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request, to successively transmit a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal, to successively receive a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal, to convert the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and to transmit the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

22. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising the steps of:

inputting a text message from a user terminal;
 inputting a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists;
 retrieving a plurality of pictures corresponding to the selected picture list;
 generating the retrieved pictures on a display coupled to the computer;
 inputting a selected picture among the retrieved pictures; and
 generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture
 on said display coupled to the computer.

27. (Amended) A method for generating sound, comprising the steps of:
 detecting an approaching signal within a predetermined area, the approaching
 signal being generated from an input means coupled to a user terminal and the center
 position of the predetermined area of a picture;
 retrieving a predetermined sound corresponding to the picture based on the
 approaching signal; and
 generating the retrieved sound.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is a Request for Approval of Drawing Change in which
 various reference numerals have been added for purposes of correction. Attached to
 the Request for Approval of Drawing Change are two (2) sheets of amended drawings
 incorporating the above noted changes.

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11-15, 17, 20, 22 and 27 have been amended to appropriately claim the invention.

The specification as filed has been amended at pages 1-8 and 10-17, to correct inadvertent typographical errors and to improve clarity.

The original filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification and claims. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 20, 2001

By:  Reg #24,014
for Andrew C. Sonu
Reg. No. 33,457

Application Number: PCT/KR00/00860
PCT Filing Date: August 4, 2000
Attorney Docket Number: 08015.0004

APPENDIX TO PCT PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DATED JUNE 20, 2001

Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, first full paragraph, please replace lines 5-7 with the following:

The present invention relates to a method and system for transmitting/receiving a picture mail, and more particularly relates to a method and system for writing a picture mail [inserted various] having various inserted pictures

On page 1, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 15-16 with the following:

Also, another problem with the e-mail method is that [an] the effectiveness of advertising may [slight] be diminished because various advertising pictures cannot be inserted into the e-mail.

On page 1, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 19-23 with:

The present invention is intended to overcome the above-mentioned disadvantages of an electronic mail [(E-mail)] (e-mail) method. Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method and system for transmitting/receiving a picture mail by using a communication network that provides various [message] messages made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.

On page 1, sixth paragraph, please replace lines 24-page 2, lines 1-2 with:

[It is another object of the] The present invention [to provide a method and system] also provides methods and systems for improving the effectiveness of advertising [because] since various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text message.

On page 3, second full paragraph, please replace lines 14-20 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving at least one selected from [the] a group of a text message, a selected picture list and a selected picture from a user terminal, means for retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list, means for generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture, and means for transmitting the plurality of retrieved pictures and the generated picture mail to said user terminal.

On page 3, fourth paragraph, please replace lines 23-page 4, lines 1-3 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a designated letter string and a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, and means [form] for storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

On page 4, first full paragraph, please replace lines 4-12 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving at least one selected from [the] a group of a text message, a [converting] conversion request and a selected picture from a user terminal, means for storing a plurality of pictures, means for successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the [converting] conversion request and for retrieving the picture from said means for storing, means for converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and means for transmitting the retrieved pictures and the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

On page 5, first full paragraph, please replace lines 4-10 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail. The apparatus comprises a storage device, and a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor, and said processor operative with said program to receive a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, receive a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal, and store link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

On page 6, fourth paragraph, please replace lines 24-page 7, lines 1-5 with:

Still another aspect of the present invention is a method for generating sound.

The method comprises the steps of detecting an approaching signal within a predetermined area, the approaching signal [is] being generated from [a inputting] an input means coupled to a user terminal and the center position of the predetermined area [is a position] of a picture, retrieving a predetermined sound corresponding to the picture based on the approaching signal, and generating the retrieved sound.

On page 7, at line 6, please add:

-- One advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by using a communication network is that various messages may be made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.

Another advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by using a communication network is that an effectiveness of advertising may be improved because various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text. --

On page 8, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 12-17 with:

A sender logs on the picture mail server by using the user computer 110 coupled to the communication network. [He/she] The sender writes a specific message and requests the picture mail server to transmit it after [that he/she input] a recipient's electronic mail address is inputted. Then, the picture mail server transmits the message to the recipient. The message (mail) that the sender wants to send includes text data,

graphic data, image data and similar [one] data. A [detail] detailed description [of it] will be disclosed with illustrations.

On page 8, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 18-21 with:

Also, the recipient may read the received message by using a mail program (for example, the [outlook express] Outlook Express) included in the user computer 110 coupled to the communication network or by accessing a specific site (for example, [yahoo] Yahoo® (<http://www.yahoo.co.kr>)) that provides [a] an e-mail service.

On page 8, seventh paragraph, please replace line 24-page 9, lines 1-4 with:

Referring to FIG. 2, the picture mail server receives an access request from the user computer (terminal) (Step 210). Then, the picture mail server transmits a web page with which the sender may input a text message (Step 220). [The step] Step 310 may further include the steps of receiving accessing data including a user identifier and a password and certifying the accessing data.

On page 9, first full paragraph, please replace lines 5-10 with:

The picture mail server receives a text message from the sender's terminal (Step 230). The text message [means that the] is a message [is] composed of letters. The text message may be generated on a display device (for example, a monitor). The picture mail server determines whether or not a picture request is received (Step 240).

The picture request [means] is a request for inserting a specific picture in the text

message. If the picture request is received, the picture mail server performs [step] Step 250. Otherwise, it performs [step] Step 260.

On page 9, second full paragraph, please replace lines 11-16 with:

At [step] Step 250, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of predetermined picture lists to the sender terminal and receives a selected picture list from the sender terminal. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures that correspond to the selected picture list to the sender terminal and receives a selected picture that the sender selects among the plurality of pictures from the sender terminal. A [detail] detailed description of [step] Step 250 [will be followed] follows.

On page 9, third full paragraph, please replace lines 17-page 10, lines 1-3 with:

The picture mail server generates a plurality of factors (for example, a character collection, time/season/star, action and emotion, memorial day and a day of the week) on a display device of the sender terminal (for example, a computer monitor). If the sender selects 'time/season/star', the picture mail server generates a plurality of detail factors (for example, weather, season, time, constellation) corresponding to the selected factor, 'time/season/star' on the display device. If the sender selects 'weather', the picture mail server generates a plurality of pictures (for example, [picture] pictures of 'sun', 'rain', 'cloud', 'fog') corresponding to the selected detail factor 'weather' on the display device. If the sender selects [picture of] the 'sun' picture, the selected 'sun' picture may be inserted into one portion where a cursor is[, of] located in the message. Hereinafter, the text message inserted pictures [is] are referred to [a] as picture mail.

On page 10, first full paragraph, please replace lines 4-6 with:

At [step] Step 260, the picture mail server determines whether or not writing the picture mail is completed. If writing the picture mail is completed, the picture mail server performs [step] Step 270. Otherwise, it returns to [step] Step 230.

On page 10, second full paragraph, please replace lines 7-10 with:

At [step] Step 270, the picture mail server generates a preview of the picture mail. At [step] Step 280, the picture mail server determines whether or not a transmission request for the picture mail is received. If the transmission request for the picture mail is received, the picture mail server terminates the procedure. Otherwise, it returns to [step] Step 230.

On page 10, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 13-17 with:

Referring to FIG. 3, the picture mail server receives an access request from the user computer (terminal) (Step 310). Then, the picture mail server transmits a web page [with] in which the sender may input a text message (Step 320). [The step] Step 310 may further include the steps of receiving accessing data including a user identifier and a password and certifying the accessing data.

On page 10, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 18-21 with:

The picture mail server receives a text message from the sender's terminal (Step 330). The text message may be generated on the display device. The picture mail

server determines whether or not a picture request is received (Step 340). If the picture request is received, the picture mail server performs [step] Step 350. Otherwise, it performs [step] Step 380.

On page 10, sixth paragraph, please replace lines 22-page 11, line 1 with:

At [step] Step 350, the picture mail server retrieves a predetermined letter string included in the text message. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures corresponding to the retrieved letter string to the sender's terminal and receives a selected picture among the transmitted pictures from the sender's terminal (Step 360).

On page 11, first full paragraph, please replace lines 2-7 with:

At [step] Step 370, the picture mail server determines whether or not there is any predetermined letter string (Step 370). If there is some predetermined letter string, the picture mail server performs [step] Step 350. Otherwise, it performs [step] Step 380. A [detail] detailed description of [step] Step 330 [~] - [step] Step 370 [will be followed] follows. In this case, the predetermined letter string is 'love' and 'friendship' and the text message is 'Love and friendship, which one is more important?'.

On page 11, second full paragraph, please replace lines 8-12 with:

At [step] Step 350, the picture mail server retrieves the predetermined letter string, 'love', out of the text message. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures corresponding to the predetermined letter [sting] string 'love' to the sender's

terminal. The sender selects a picture among the transmitted pictures displayed on the display device of the sender's terminal.

On page 11, third full paragraph, please replace lines 13-15 with:

Also, at [step] Step 370, the picture mail server determines whether or not there is any predetermined letter [sting] string. The picture mail server retrieves the predetermined letter [sting] string 'friendship' and returns to [step] Step 350.

On page 11, fourth full paragraph, please replace lines 16-18 with:

At [step] Step 380, the picture mail server determines whether or not writing the picture mail is completed. If writing the picture mail is completed, the picture mail server previews the picture mail [server performs step] (Step 390). Otherwise, it [performs] receives a text message [step] (Step 330).

On page 11, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 19-22 with:

At [step] Step 270, the picture mail server generates a preview of the picture mail. At [step] Step 400, the picture mail server determines whether or not a transmission request for the picture mail is received. If the transmission request for the picture mail is received, the picture mail server terminates the procedure. Otherwise, it returns to [step] Step 330.

Date		Time		Location		Weather		Wind		Sea		Visibility		Temperature		Humidity		Pressure		Remarks	
Day	Month	Hour	Minute	Lat	Long	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Speed	Height	Direction	Temp	Humidity	Pressure	Temp	Humidity	Pressure	Temp	Humidity	Pressure	Remarks
01	11	08	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
02	11	09	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
03	11	10	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
04	11	11	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
05	11	12	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
06	11	13	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
07	11	14	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
08	11	15	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
09	11	16	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
10	11	17	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
11	11	18	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
12	11	19	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
13	11	20	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
14	11	21	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
15	11	22	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
16	11	23	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
17	11	24	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
18	11	25	15	11° 15' N	103° 15' E	100	28.5	10	10	10	10	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	28.5	85	1010	Clear
19	11																				

On page 12, first full paragraph, please replace lines 1-5 with:

Referring to FIG. 4, a writing picture mail page includes a transmitting/receiving data frame 440, a message frame 450, a picture factor selection frame 460, a picture selection frame 470, and an e-mail transmitting data frame 480. Also, the writing picture mail page further includes an advertising picture frame 490 for inputting a specific advertising picture.

On page 12, second full paragraph, please replace lines 6-9 with:

The transmitting/receiving data frame 440 may include an 'e-mail's title' factor, a 'sender's e-mail address' factor, a 'recipient's e-mail address' factor, and a 'attach file' factor. In the case of certifying the accessing data (user ID and password), the 'sender's e-mail address' factor 440 may be omitted.

On page 12, third full paragraph, please replace lines 1-2 with:

The sender may input a message in the message frame 450. Also, [T] text data or picture data may be inserted in the message frame 450.

On page 12, fifth paragraph, please replace lines 22-page 13, lines 1-4 with:

Also, the picture factor selection frame 460 may further include a 'picture link' factor for linking the predetermined letter [sting] string and the specific picture in accordance with the sender's [designating] designation. For example, the sender selects the 'picture link' factor and links the sender's 'name' to a specific picture. The specific picture may be included in a plurality of pictures in the picture factor selection

frame 460. Then, the sender's 'name' may be converted into the linked picture, when the sender inputs his/her 'name' as a predetermined letter [string] string.

On page 13, second full paragraph, please replace lines 12-17 with:

The e-mail transmitting data frame 480 may include a 'preview' factor and a 'sending reservation' factor. When the sender inputs a date and a time for sending reservation and clicks on the 'sending reservation' factor, the picture mail server transfers a picture mail at the date and the time. Also, when the sender clicks on the 'preview' factor, an illustration [illustrated] as in FIG. 5 is displayed on [the] a display device [included] in the sender's terminal.

On page 13, third full paragraph, please replace lines 18-24 with:

The writing picture mail page may further include an advertising picture frame 490. A predetermined letter string included in the text message is converted into a specific advertising picture by using the advertising picture frame 490, regardless of the sender's intention. Also, when the sender clicks on the 'preview' factor or a 'transmitting' factor, a plurality of predetermined pictures may be displayed on the display device included in the sender's terminal and selected by the sender. A [detail] detailed description of the 'message' frame 450 and the 'advertising picture' frame 490 [will be followed] follows.

[illegible]

On page 14, first full paragraph, please replace lines 1-6 with:

Referring to FIG. 4 again, pictures of ['McDonald'] 'McDonald's®' and ['Pizza Hut'] 'Pizza Hut®' are generated in the 'advertising picture' frame 490. When the sender inputs a predetermined letter string (for example, 'hamburger' or ['McDonald'] 'McDonald's®'), the picture of ['McDonald'] 'McDonald's®' is generated regardless of the sender's intention. Similarly, when the sender inputs a predetermined letter [string] string (for example, 'pizza'), the picture of ['Pizza Hut'] 'Pizza Hut®' is generated regardless of the sender's intention.

On page 14, second full paragraph, please replace lines 7-8 with:

FIG. 5 is an illustration of a preview picture mail in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention.

On page 14, third full paragraph, please replace lines 9-12 with:

Referring to FIG. 5, a preview picture mail page may include the picture factor selection frame 460, the e-mail transmitting data frame 480, a preview frame 500 and a mail amendment frame 510. [A detail description with referring to FIG. 4 will be omitted, avoid duplication.]

On page 14, fifth full paragraph, please replace lines 18-23 with:

When the recipient receives the picture mail, [generates] an approaching signal is generated if a cursor from an inputting means (for example, a mouse), included in the recipient's terminal, is put within a predetermined area[.]. The center of the

predetermined area is a position of [a] an advertising picture. The picture mail server generates an advertisement (for example, a ['McDonald'] 'McDonald's®' [CM] song) by using an output device (for example, a speaker) included in the recipient's terminal.

On page 15, first full paragraph, please replace lines 2-7 with:

Referring to FIG. 6, a writing picture mail page may include a transmitting/receiving data frame 540, a message frame 550, a picture factor selection frame 560, a picture selection frame 570, and an e-mail transmitting data frame. Also, the writing picture mail page may further include an advertising picture frame for inserting a specific advertising picture into a text message. [A detail description with referring to FIG. 4 will be omitted, avoid duplication.]

On page 15, second full paragraph, please replace lines 8-17 with:

The e-mail transmitting data frame may include a 'converting' factor, a 'preview' factor, a 'transmitting picture mail' factor and a 'sending reservation' factor. If the sender clicks on the 'converting' factor, the picture mail server retrieves a predetermined letter string and generates a plurality of pictures corresponding to the predetermined letter string. Also, in the picture selection frame 570, a 'undo' factor and a 'user's picture' factor are generated as well as a plurality of pictures. The sender may select a picture among the generated pictures, undo the selection by using the 'undo' factor or insert a picture stored in the storage device included in the sender's terminal by using the 'user's picture' factor. [Though] Since a predetermined letter string is not

retrieved, the sender may convert some letters into a specific picture by using the picture factor selection frame 560.

On page 15, third full paragraph, please replace lines 18-21 with:

A picture mail transmitting/receiving program on a self-processing basis may be provided in [the] a storage device in the sender's terminal in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this case, a plurality of pictures may be applied to pictures stored in the storage device in the sender's terminal.

On page 15, fourth paragraph, please replace lines 22-page 16 lines 1-2 with:

A picture mail writing program on a self-processing basis may be [provide] provided in [the] a storage device in the sender's terminal in accordance with [still] another preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this case, the sender's terminal is coupled to the picture mail server via the communication network₁ and the picture mail server performs transmitting/receiving the picture mail made by the picture mail writing program.

On page 16, please delete lines 7-13:

[Industrial Applicability]

One advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by suing a communication network is that various message may be made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.

Another advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by using a communication network is that an effectiveness of advertising may be elevated because various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text message.]

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Amended) A method for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a text message from a user terminal;

receiving a selected picture list from among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal;

retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;

transmitting the retrieved pictures to said user terminal;

receiving a selected picture from said user terminal; and

generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving a predetermined letter string in the text message; and

converting the letter string into a predetermined picture [for the purpose] to thereby generate an [of] advertisement.

7. (Amended) A method for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network;

receiving a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal; and

storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

11. (Amended) A method for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a text message from a user terminal;

receiving a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal;

successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message [by] according to a predetermined [way] manner corresponding to the converting request;

successively transmitting a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal;

successively receiving a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal;

converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

transmitting the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

12. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

means for receiving at least one selected from [the] a group of a text message, a selected picture list and a selected picture from a user terminal;

means for retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;

means for generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture; and

means for transmitting the plurality of retrieved pictures and the generated picture mail to said user terminal.

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said [means for] receiving means receives a position [where] whereto the picture [in] is inserted and a completion notice of writing the text message from said user terminal.

14. (Amended) An apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising:

means for receiving a designated letter string and a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network; and

means [form] for storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

means for receiving at least one selected from [the] a group of a text message, a converting request and a selected picture from a user terminal;

means for storing a plurality of pictures;

means for successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request and for retrieving the picture from said means for storing;

means for converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

means for transmitting the retrieved pictures and the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

16. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor coupled to said storage device[;];

said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor; and

said process operative with said program to receive a text message from a user terminal[;], to receive a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal[;], to retrieve a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list[;], to transmit the retrieved pictures to said user terminal[;], to receive a selected picture from said user terminal[;], and to generate a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

17. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, said processor further operative with said program to retrieve a predetermined letter string in the text message and convert the letter string into a predetermined picture for [the purpose of] advertisement purposes.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for registering a picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor; [and]

said processor operative with said program to receive a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network[:], to receive a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal[:], and to store link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

21. (Amended) An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor coupled to said storage device,

said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor; and

said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from a user terminal[:], to receive a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal[:], to successively retrieve a predetermined letter

string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request[:], to successively receive a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal[:], to convert the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string[:], and to transmit the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

22. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing [the] a method comprising the steps of:

inputting a text message from a user terminal;

inputting a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists;

retrieving a plurality of pictures corresponding to the selected picture list;

generating the retrieved pictures on a display coupled to the computer;

inputting a selected picture among the retrieved pictures; and

generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture on said display coupled to the computer.

27. (Amended) A method for generating sound, comprising the steps of:

detecting an approaching signal within a predetermined area, the approaching signal [is] being generated from [a inputting] an input means coupled to a user terminal and the center position of the predetermined area [is a position] of a picture;

retrieving a predetermined sound corresponding to the picture based on the approaching signal; and

generating the retrieved sound.

* * * * *

09/868730

JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 JUN 2001

PATENT

Customer Number 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 08015.0004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re National Stage of International)
Application No. PCT/KR00/00860 of:)
Yong-Tae KIM)
Application No.: to be determined) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
PCT Filed: August 4, 2000) Examiner: Not yet assigned
Priority Date: June 1, 2000)
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR)
SENDING AND RECEIVING)
ELECTRONIC MAIL INCLUDING)
GRAPHIC)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGE

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that FIGS. 5 and 6 in the above-captioned application be amended as follows:

1. Adding reference numeral 510 to FIG. 5
2. Correcting reference numeral 510 item "MAIL AMEND MENT" to --MAIL AMENDMENT-- in FIG. 5.
3. Adding reference numeral 500 to FIG. 6
4. Changing reference numeral 450 of FIG. 6 to reference number 550.

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000

Application SN 09/703,669
Attorney Docket No. 04208.0087

By: Andrew C. Sonu, Reg #24,014
for Andrew C. Sonu
Reg. No. 33,457

5/6
FIG. 5

SEARCHING PICTURE

SEARCHING

MY PICTURE WINDOW

CHARACTER COLLECTION

TIME/SEASON/STAR

WEATHER

SEASON

TIME

CONSTELLATION

MEMORIAL DAY/ DAY OF THE WEEKEND

ACTION/EMOTION

PLACE/BUILDING


ANIMAL/PLANT


MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION


WRITING PICTURE MAIL


MAIL AMENDMENT


CHANGING LETTER PAPER

HEY  LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER TOMORROW?


LET'S HAVE LUNCH WITH  ... I'M OK WITH OR CHINESE FOOD

HOW ABOUT A  FOOD?

OR... I'M OK WITH 

YOU SAID YOU WANT TO GO THE  ?

I'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO MY HOMETOWN

BY  TODAY

TRANSMITTING PICTURE MAIL

SENDING RESERVATION

2000 YEAR 5 MONTH 18 DAY 23 HOUR 30 MIN

Revised Drawings w/ Changes inked.

6/6
FIG. 6

SEARCHING PICTURE

SEARCHING

MY PICTURE WINDOW

CHARACTER COLLECTION

TIME/SEASON/STAR

WEATHER

SEASON

TIME

CONSTELLATION

MEMORIAL DAY/ DAY OF THE WEEKEND

ACTION/EMOTION

PLACE/BUILDING

ANIMAL/PLANT

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

WRITING PICTURE MAIL

MAKING MY PICTURE WINDOW

SELECTING LETTER PAPER

ADDRESS BOOK

ADDRESS REGISTRATION

TITLE WHAT SALL WE HAVE?

SENDER'S E-MAIL jedai@zzmail.co.kr

ATTACH FILE

RECIPIENT'S E-MAIL pax@yahoo.com

CONFIRMATION

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

UNDO

USER'S PICTURE

HEY LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER TOMORROW?

LET'S HAVE LUNCH WITH ... I'M OK WITH HAMBURGER OR CHINESE FOOD

HOW ABOUT A FOOD?

OR... I'M OK WITH PIZZA

YOU SAID YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MCDONALD?

I'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO MY HOMETOWN BY TRAIN TODAY

CONVERTING

PREVIEW

SENDING RESERVATION

2000

YEAR

5

MONTH

18

DAY

23

HOUR

30

MINUTES

560

540

590

550

580

500

6/PR15

RECEIVED 09/868730

JG18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 1 JUN 2001

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING ELECTRONIC MAIL INCLUDING GRAPHIC

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a method and system for transmitting/receiving a picture mail, more particularly relates to a method and system for writing a picture mail inserted various pictures.

Background Art

10 Several communication methods have been attempted using the Internet, electronic mail (e-mail), the telephone and similar means. A text message can be delivered by using the e-mail in real time.

 With the e-mail methods, the user is restricted to the text message. Consequently, various creative intention of the user may be restricted within narrow limits.

15 Also, another problem with the e-mail method is that an effectiveness of advertising may slight because various advertising pictures cannot be inserted into the e-mail.

Disclosure of the Invention

20 The present invention is intended to overcome the above-mentioned disadvantages of an electronic mail (E-mail) method. Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method and system for transmitting/receiving a picture mail by using a communication network that provides various message made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.

 It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and system for

improving the effectiveness of advertising because various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text message.

To achieve the objects, one aspect of the present invention is a method for writing a picture mail by using a network. The method comprises the steps of receiving a text message from a user terminal, receiving a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal, retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list, transmitting the retrieved pictures to said user terminal, receiving a selected picture from said user terminal, and generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

Moreover, the method further comprises the steps of retrieving a predetermined letter string in the text message and converting the letter string into a predetermined picture for the purpose of advertisement. Also, the method further comprises the step of receiving a position where the picture is inserted. Also, the method further comprises the step of receiving a completion notice of writing the text message from the user terminal. The network is at least one selected from the group of a wired communication network and a wireless communication network. The user terminal is at least one selected from the group of a personal computer and a mobile communication terminal.

Another aspect of the present invention is a method for registering picture that is used in a picture mail. The method comprises the steps of receiving a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, receiving a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal, and storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

Moreover, the selected picture is stored in at least one selected from the group of a storage device included in said user terminal and a storage device included in a server. The

network is at least one selected from the group of a wired communication network and a wireless communication network. Also, the user terminal is at least one selected from the group of a personal computer and a mobile communication terminal.

Still another aspect of the present invention is a method for writing a picture mail by using a network. The method comprises the steps of receiving a text message from a user terminal, receiving a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal, successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request, successively transmitting a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal, successively receiving a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal, converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and transmitting the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving at least one selected from the group of a text message, a selected picture list and a selected picture from a user terminal, means for retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list, means for generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture, and means for transmitting the plurality of retrieved pictures and the generated picture mail to said user terminal.

Moreover, the means for receiving receives a position where the picture is inserted and a completion notice of writing the text message from said user terminal.

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for registering picture that is used in a picture mail. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a designated

letter string and a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, and means for storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving at least one selected from the group of a text message, a converting request and a selected picture from a user terminal, means for storing a plurality of pictures, means for successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request and for retrieving the picture from said means for storing, means for converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and means for transmitting the retrieved pictures and the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises a storage device and a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor and said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from a user terminal, receive a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal, retrieve a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list, transmit the retrieved pictures to said user terminal, receive a selected picture from said user terminal and generate a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

Moreover, the processor further operative with said program to retrieve a predetermined letter string in the text message and convert the letter string into a predetermined picture for the purpose of advertisement. The processor further operative

with said program to receive a position where the picture is inserted. The processor further operative with said program to receive a completion notice of writing the text message from the user terminal.

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for registering picture
 5 that is used in a picture mail. The apparatus comprises a storage device, and a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor, and said processor operative with said program to receive a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network, receive a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal, and store link data between the
 10 designated letter string and the selected picture.

Still another aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network. The apparatus comprises a storage device, and a processor coupled to said storage device, said storage device storing a program for controlling said processor, and said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from a
 15 user terminal, receive a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal, successively retrieve a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request, successively transmit a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal, successively receive a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said
 20 user terminal, convert the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and transmit the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

Still another aspect of the present invention is a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method comprising the steps of inputting a text message from a user terminal, inputting a selected picture list

among a plurality of predetermined picture lists, retrieving a plurality of pictures corresponding to the selected picture list, generating the retrieved pictures on a display coupled to the computer, inputting a selected picture among the retrieved pictures, and generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture on said display coupled to the computer.

Moreover, the instructions further perform the steps of retrieving a predetermined letter string in the text message, and converting the letter string into a predetermined picture for the purpose of advertisement.

Still another aspect of the present invention is a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method comprising the steps of storing a designated letter string for converting into a picture, storing a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string, and storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

Still another aspect of the present invention is a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method comprising the steps of inputting a text message from a user terminal, inputting a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal, successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request, successively generating a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string on a display coupled to the computer, successively inputting a selected picture among the plurality of pictures, converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string, and generating the picture mail comprising the selected picture on the display coupled to the computer.

Still another aspect of the present invention is a method for generating sound. The

method comprises the steps of detecting an approaching signal within a predetermined area, the approaching signal is generated from a inputting means coupled a user terminal and the center of the predetermined area is a position of a picture, retrieving a predetermined sound corresponding to the picture based on the approaching signal, generating the retrieved sound.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The above objects and other advantages of the present invention will become more apparent in detailed descriptions of the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a picture mail providing system (server) based on a network in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a picture mail transmitting/receiving process in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a picture mail transmitting/receiving process in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is an illustration for transmitting a picture mail to a recipient in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is an illustration of preview picture mail in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 6 is an illustration for transmitting a picture mail to a recipient in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Best Modes for carrying out the Invention

Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, but it is understood that the present invention should not be limited to the following embodiments.

5 FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a picture mail providing system (server) based on a network in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 1, the picture mail providing system (hereinafter referred to as the picture mail server) 120 comprises a storage device 130, and it is coupled to user computers (or terminals) 110a, 110b (hereinafter referred to as 110) via a communication
10 network. The communication network includes the Internet, a mobile communication network, a PSTN and similar means.

A sender logs on the picture mail server by using the user computer 110 coupled to the communication network. He/she writes a specific message and requests the picture mail server to transmit it after that he/she input a recipient's electronic mail address. Then,
15 the picture mail server transmits the message to the recipient. The message (mail) that the sender wants to send includes text data, graphic data, image data and similar one. A detail description of it will be disclosed with illustrations.

Also, the recipient may read the received message by using a mail program (for example, the outlook express) included in the user computer 110 coupled to the
20 communication network or by accessing a specific site (for example, yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.co.kr>)) that provides a e-mail service.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a picture mail transmitting/receiving process in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 2, the picture mail server receives an access request from the

user computer (terminal) (Step 210). Then, the picture mail server transmits a web page with which the sender may input a text message (Step 220). The step 310 may further include the steps of receiving accessing data including a user identifier and a password and certifying the accessing data.

5 The picture mail server receives a text message from the sender's terminal (Step 230). The text message means that the message is composed of letters. The text message may be generated on a display device (for example, a monitor). The picture mail server determines whether or not a picture request is received (Step 240). The picture request means a request for inserting a specific picture in the text message. If the picture request is received, the picture mail server performs step 250. Otherwise, it performs step 260.

10 At step 250, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of predetermined picture lists to the sender terminal and receives a selected picture list from the sender terminal. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures that correspond to the selected picture list to the sender terminal and receives a selected picture that the sender selects among the plurality of pictures from the sender terminal. A detail description of step 250 will be followed.

15 The picture mail server generates a plurality of factors (for example, a character collection, time/season/star, action and emotion, memorial day and a day of the week) on a display device of the sender terminal (for example, a computer monitor). If the sender selects 'time/season/star', the picture mail server generates a plurality of detail factors (for example, weather, season, time, constellation) corresponding to the selected factor, 'time/season/star' on the display device. If the sender selects 'weather', the picture mail server generates a plurality of pictures (for example, picture of 'sun', 'rain', 'cloud', 'fog') corresponding to the selected detail factor 'weather' on the display device. If the sender

selects picture of 'sun', the selected 'sun' picture may be inserted into one portion where a cursor is, of the message. Hereinafter, the text message inserted pictures is referred to a picture mail.

At step 260, the picture mail server determines whether or not writing the picture mail is completed. If writing the picture mail is completed, the picture mail server performs step 270. Otherwise, it returns step 230.

At step 270, the picture mail server generates a preview of the picture mail. At step 280, the picture mail server determines whether or not a transmission request for the picture mail is received. If the transmission request for the picture mail is received, the picture mail server terminates the procedure. Otherwise, it returns to step 230.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a picture mail transmitting/receiving process in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 3, the picture mail server receives an access request from the user computer (terminal) (Step 310). Then, the picture mail server transmits a web page with which the sender may input a text message (Step 320). The step 310 may further include the steps of receiving accessing data including a user identifier and a password and certifying the accessing data.

The picture mail server receives a text message from the sender's terminal (Step 330). The text message may be generated on the display device. The picture mail server determines whether or not a picture request is received (Step 340). If the picture request is received, the picture mail server performs step 350. Otherwise, it performs step 380.

At step 350, the picture mail server retrieves a predetermined letter string included in the text message. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures corresponding to the retrieved letter string to the sender's terminal and receives a selected

picture among the transmitted pictures from the sender's terminal (Step 360).

At step 370, the picture mail server determines whether or not there is any predetermined letter string (Step 370). If there is some predetermined letter string, the picture mail server performs step 350. Otherwise, it performs step 380. A detail description of step 330 ~ step 370 will be followed. In this case, the predetermined letter string is 'love' and 'friendship' and the text message is 'Love and friendship, which one is more important?'.
5

At step 350, the picture mail server retrieves the predetermined letter string, 'love', out of the text message. Then, the picture mail server transmits a plurality of pictures corresponding to the predetermined letter sting 'love' to the sender's terminal. The sender selects a picture among the transmitted pictures displayed on the display device of the sender's terminal.
10

Also, at step 370, the picture mail server determines whether or not there is any predetermined letter sting. The picture mail server retrieves the predetermined letter sting 'friendship' and returns to step 350.
15

At step 380, the picture mail server determines whether or not writing the picture mail is completed. If writing the picture mail is completed, the picture mail server performs step 390. Otherwise, it performs step 330.

At step 270, the picture mail server generates a preview of the picture mail. At step 400, the picture mail server determines whether or not a transmission request for the picture mail is received. If the transmission request for the picture mail is received, the picture mail server terminates the procedure. Otherwise, it returns to step 330.
20

FIG. 4 is an illustration for transmitting a picture mail to a recipient in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 4, a writing picture mail page includes a transmitting/receiving data frame 440, a message frame 450, a picture factor selection frame 460, a picture selection frame 470, and e-mail transmitting data frame 480. Also, the writing picture mail page further includes an advertising picture frame 490 for inputting a specific advertising picture.

The transmitting/receiving data frame 440 may include an 'e-mail's title' factor, a 'sender's e-mail address' factor, a 'recipient's e-mail address' factor, and 'attach file' factor. In the case of certifying the accessing data (user ID and password), the 'sender's e-mail address' factor 440 may be omitted.

The sender may input message in the message frame 450. Text data or picture data may be inserted in the message frame 450.

By using the picture factor selection frame 460, a plurality of picture factors may be generated. The picture factor selection frame 460 may include 'my picture window' factor, 'character collection' factor, 'time/season/star' factor, 'memorial day/day of the weekend' factor and similar ones. Each factor may include particular factors (for example, 'weather', 'season', 'time', and 'constellation'). The 'my picture window' factor included in the picture factor selection frame 460 is used for storing a plurality of pictures of high frequency of use. The sender may input the pictures of high frequency of use in the 'my picture window' factor. The pictures stored by using the 'my picture window' factor, may be provided by the picture mail server or be extracted from an external picture source (for example, a plurality of pictures stored in storage device included in the sender's terminal).

Also, the picture factor selection frame 460 may further include a 'picture link' factor for linking the predetermined letter sting and the specific picture in accordance with sender's designating. For example, the sender selects the 'picture link' factor and links the

sender's 'name' to a specific picture. The specific picture may be included in a plurality of pictures in the picture factor selection frame 460. Then, the sender's 'name' may be converted into the linked picture, when the sender inputs his/her 'name', as a predetermined letter string.

5 By using the picture selection frame 470, a plurality of pictures included in a selected factor may be generated, when the sender selects a specific factor by using the picture factor selection frame 460. Referring to FIG. 4, a plurality of pictures are generated when the sender selects a 'means of transportation' factor included in the picture selection frame 470. A 'train' inputted by the sender may be converted into a specific picture
10 corresponding to the 'train', when the sender selected the specific picture among a plurality of pictures related to the 'means of transportation'.

The e-mail transmitting data frame 480 may include a 'preview' factor and a 'sending reservation' factor. When the sender inputs a date and a time for sending reservation and clicks on the 'sending reservation' factor, the picture mail server transfers a
15 picture mail at the date and the time. Also, when the sender clicks on the 'preview' factor, an illustration illustrated in FIG. 5 is displayed on the display device included in the sender's terminal.

The writing picture mail page may further include an advertising picture frame 490. A predetermined letter string included in the text message is converted into a specific
20 advertising picture by using the advertising picture frame 490, regardless of the sender's intention. Also, when the sender clicks on the 'preview' factor or a 'transmitting' factor, a plurality of predetermined pictures may be displayed on the display device included in the sender's terminal and selected by the sender. A detail description of the 'message' frame 450 and the 'advertising picture' frame 490 will be followed.

Referring to FIG. 4 again, pictures of 'McDonald' and 'Pizza Hut' are generated in the 'advertising picture' frame 490. When the sender inputs a predetermined letter string (for example, 'hamburger' or 'McDonald'), the picture of 'McDonald' is generated regardless of the sender's intention. Similarly, when the sender inputs a predetermined letter sting (for example, 'pizza'), the picture of 'Pizza Hut' is generated regardless of the sender's intention.

FIG. 5 is an illustration of preview picture mail in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 5, a preview picture mail page may include the picture factor selection frame 460, the e-mail transmitting data frame 480, a preview frame 500 and a mail amendment frame 510. A detail description with referring to FIG. 4 will be omitted, avoid duplication.

By using the preview frame 500, a message composed of a plurality of pictures may be displayed on the preview frame 500. If the sender wishes to amend the message, the mail amendment frame 510 facilitates the message amendment. Also, if the sender wishes to change the letter paper, the changing letter paper factor may facilitate the letter paper change.

When the recipient received the picture mail generates an approaching signal if a cursor from an inputting means (for example, a mouse) included in the recipient's terminal is put within a predetermined area (the center of the predetermined area is a position of a advertising picture), the picture mail server generates an advertisement (for example, a 'McDonald' CM song) by using an output device (for example, a speaker) included in the recipient's terminal.

FIG. 6 is an illustration for transmitting a picture mail to a recipient in accordance

with another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 6, a writing picture mail page may include a transmitting/receiving data frame 540, a message frame 550, a picture factor selection frame 560, a picture selection frame 570, and an e-mail transmitting data frame. Also, the writing picture mail page may further include an advertising picture frame for inserting a specific advertising picture into a text message. A detail description with referring to FIG. 4 will be omitted, avoid duplication.

The e-mail transmitting data frame may include a 'converting' factor, a 'preview' factor, a 'transmitting picture mail' factor and a 'sending reservation' factor. If the sender clicks on the 'converting' factor, the picture mail server retrieves a predetermined letter string and generates a plurality of pictures corresponding to the predetermined letter string. Also, in the picture selection frame 570, a 'undo' factor and a 'user's picture' factor are generated as well as a plurality of pictures. The sender may select a picture among the generated pictures, undo the selection by using the 'undo' factor or insert a picture stored in the storage device included in the sender's terminal by using the 'user's picture' factor. Though a predetermined letter string is not retrieved, the sender may convert some letters into a specific picture by using the picture factor selection frame 560.

A picture mail transmitting/receiving program on a self-processing basis may be provided in the storage device included in the sender's terminal in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this case, a plurality of pictures may be applied to pictures stored in the storage device included in the sender's terminal.

A picture mail writing program on a self-processing basis may be provide in the storage device included in the sender's terminal in accordance with still another preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this case, the sender's terminal is coupled to the

picture mail server via the communication network and the picture mail server performs transmitting/receiving the picture mail made by the picture mail writing program.

Although the present invention has been described in terms of various embodiments, it is not intended that the invention be limited to these embodiments.

5 Modification within the spirit of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Industrial Applicability

One advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by suing a communication network is that various message may be made in accordance with the sender's creative intention.

Another advantage of the method and system for writing picture mail by using a communication network is that an effectiveness of advertising may be elevated because various advertising pictures may be inserted into a text message.

15

Claims

1. A method for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a text message from a user terminal;
- receiving a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal;
- retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;
- transmitting the retrieved pictures to said user terminal;
- receiving a selected picture from said user terminal; and
- generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- retrieving a predetermined letter string in the text message; and
- converting the letter string into a predetermined picture for the purpose of advertisement.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a position where the picture is inserted.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a completion notice of writing the text message from the user terminal.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said network is at least one selected from the group of a wired communication network and a wireless communication network.
- 5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said user terminal is at least one selected from the group of a personal computer and a mobile communication terminal.
7. A method for registering picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising the steps of:
10 receiving a designated letter string from a user terminal by using a network;
receiving a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from said user terminal; and
storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.
- 15 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the selected picture is stored in at least one selected from the group of a storage device included in said user terminal and a storage device included in a server.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein said network is at least one selected from the
20 group of a wired communication network and a wireless communication network.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein said user terminal is at least one selected from the group of a personal computer and a mobile communication terminal.

11. A method for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a text message from a user terminal;

receiving a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal;

5 successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request;

successively transmitting a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal;

10 successively receiving a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal;

converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

transmitting the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

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12. An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

means for receiving at least one selected from the group of a text message, a selected picture list and a selected picture from a user terminal;

20 means for retrieving a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;

means for generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture; and

means for transmitting the plurality of retrieved pictures and the generated picture mail to said user terminal.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said means for receiving receives a position where the picture is inserted and a completion notice of writing the text message from said user terminal.

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14. An apparatus for registering picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising:
means for receiving a designated letter string and a selected picture
corresponding to the designated letter string from a user terminal by using a
network; and

10

means for storing link data between the designated letter string and the
selected picture.

15. An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

15

means for receiving at least one selected from the group of a text message, a
converting request and a selected picture from a user terminal;

means for storing a plurality of pictures;

means for successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the
text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request and
for retrieving the picture from said means for storing;

20

means for converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to
the letter string; and

means for transmitting the retrieved pictures and the picture mail comprising
the selected picture to said user terminal.

16. An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor coupled to said storage device,

said storage device storing

5 a program for controlling said processor; and

said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from a user terminal;

receive a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture lists from said user terminal;

10 retrieve a plurality of pictures from a storage device, corresponding to the selected picture list;

transmit the retrieved pictures to said user terminal;

receive a selected picture from said user terminal; and

15 generate a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected picture.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, said processor further operative with said program to

retrieve a predetermined letter string in the text message and convert the letter string into a predetermined picture for the purpose of advertisement.

20

18. The apparatus of claim 16, said processor further operative with said program to receive a position where the picture is inserted.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, said processor further operative with said program to receive a completion notice of writing the text message from the user terminal.

20. An apparatus for registering picture that is used in a picture mail, comprising:

- a storage device; and
- a processor coupled to said storage device,
- said storage device storing
- a program for controlling said processor; and
- said processor operative with said program to receive a designated letter
- string from a user terminal by using a network;
- receive a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string from
- said user terminal; and
- store link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

21. An apparatus for writing a picture mail by using a network, comprising:

- a storage device; and
- a processor coupled to said storage device,
- said storage device storing
- a program for controlling said processor; and
- said processor operative with said program to receive a text message from a
- user terminal;
- receive a converting request for converting the text message into a picture
- mail from said user terminal;

successively retrieve a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request; successively transmit a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string to said user terminal;

5 successively receive a selected picture among the plurality of pictures from said user terminal;

convert the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

transmit the picture mail comprising the selected picture to said user terminal.

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22. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a text message from a user terminal;

inputting a selected picture list among a plurality of predetermined picture

15 lists;

retrieving a plurality of pictures corresponding to the selected picture list;

generating the retrieved pictures on a display coupled to the computer;

inputting a selected picture among the retrieved pictures; and

generating a picture mail out of the text message by inserting the selected

15

20 picture on said display coupled to the computer.

20

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said instructions further perform the steps of:

retrieving a predetermined letter string in the text message; and

converting the letter string into a predetermined picture for the purpose of advertisement.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said instructions further perform the step of receiving a position where the picture is inserted.

25. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method comprising the steps of:

storing a designated letter string for converting into a picture;

storing a selected picture corresponding to the designated letter string; and

storing link data between the designated letter string and the selected picture.

26. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a text message from a user terminal;

inputting a converting request for converting the text message into a picture mail from said user terminal;

successively retrieving a predetermined letter string included in the text message by a predetermined way corresponding to the converting request;

successively generating a plurality of pictures corresponding to the letter string on a display coupled to the computer;

successively inputting a selected picture among the plurality of pictures;

converting the letter string into the selected picture corresponded to the letter string; and

generating the picture mail comprising the selected picture on the display coupled to the computer.

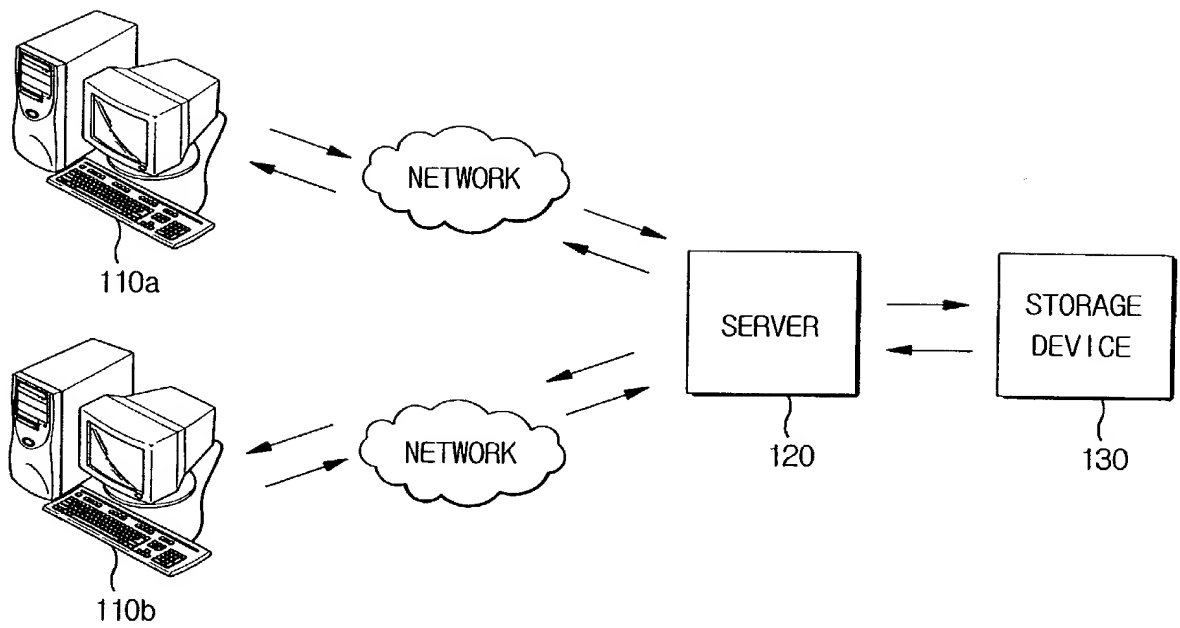
27. A method for generating sound, comprising the steps of:

- 5 detecting an approaching signal within a predetermined area, the approaching signal is generated from a inputting means coupled a user terminal and the center of the predetermined area is a position of a picture;
- retrieving a predetermined sound corresponding to the picture based on the approaching signal;
- 10 generating the retrieved sound.

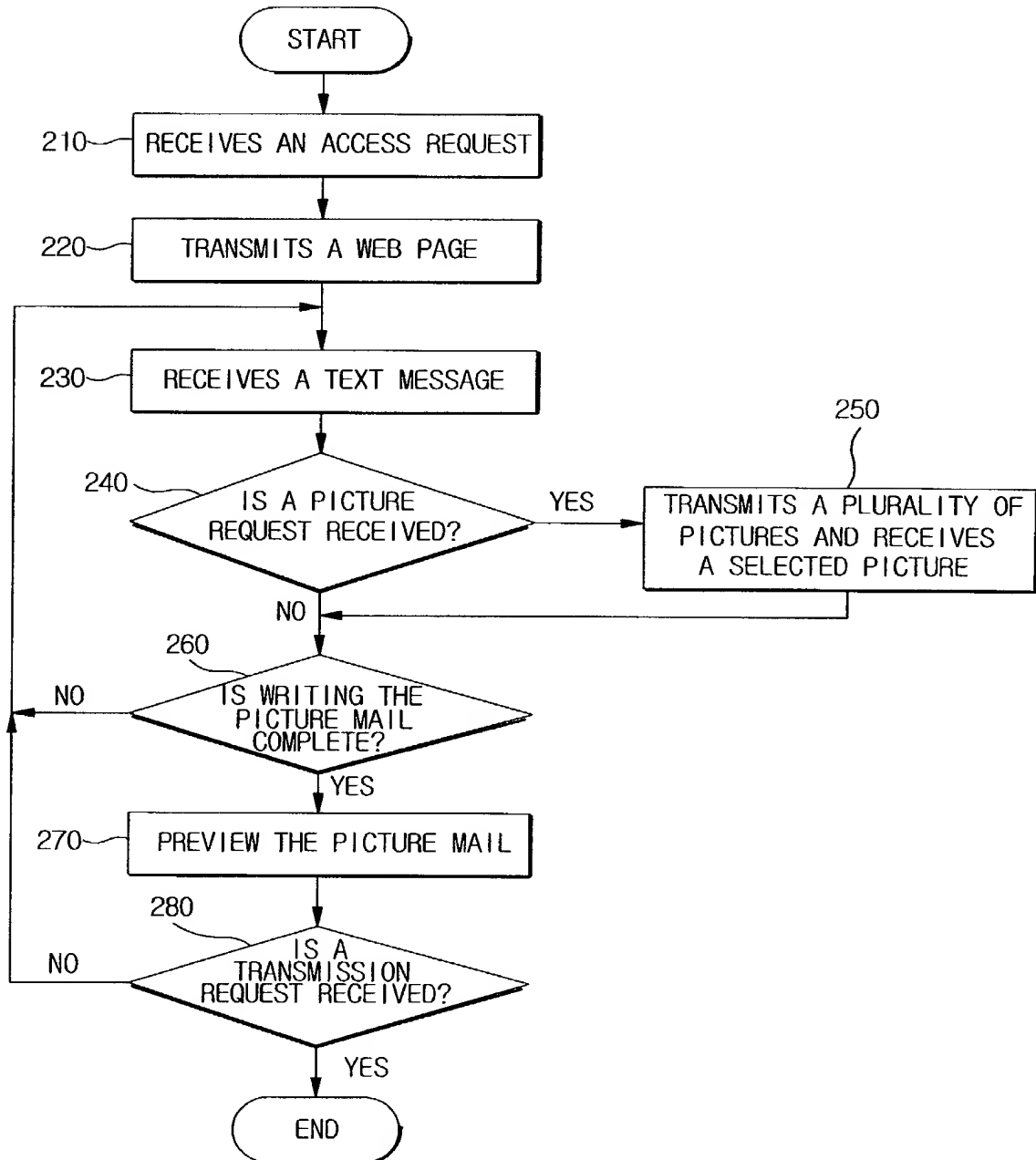
Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The present invention relates to electronic mail including image transmission system and method. A web server coupled to a plurality of user terminal receives a text sentence composed of letters from donor. Also, the web server repeatedly receives image selection information among a plurality of images available. The web server inserts the selected image in the text message or converts a selected letter into the selected image, preferably into a predetermined commercial image. Then, the web server sends electronic
10 mail including text sentence and one or more images to a recipient. The electronic mail system can be applied to a medium of advertisement.

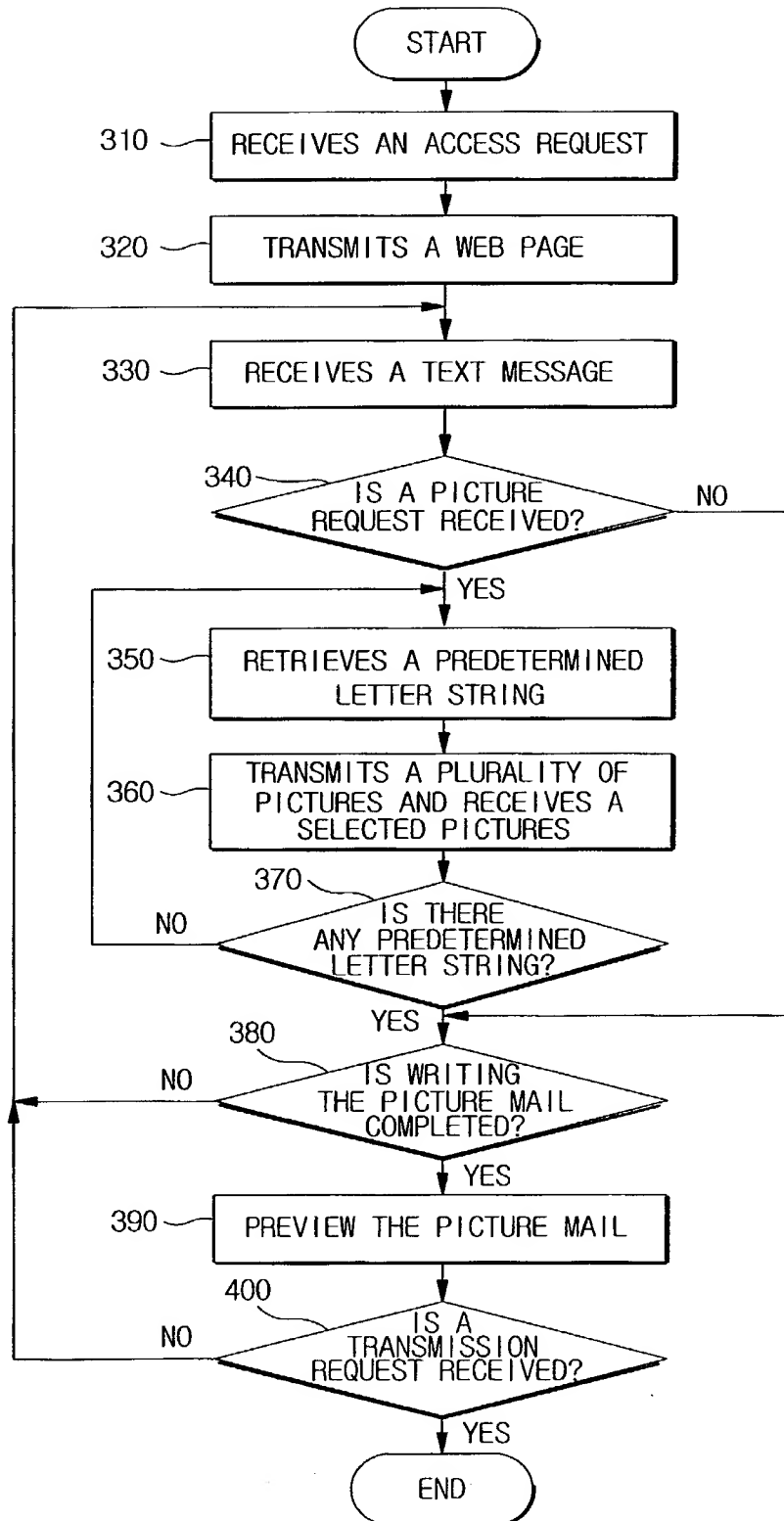
1/6
FIG. 1



2/6
FIG. 2



3/6
FIG. 3



4/6
FIG. 4

SEARCHING PICTURE

SEARCHING

MY PICTURE WINDOW

CHARACTER COLLECTION

TIME/SEASON/STAR

WEATHER

SEASON

TIME

CONSTELLATION

MEMORIAL DAY/ DAY OF THE WEEKEND

ACTION/EMOTION

PLACE/BUILDING

ANIMAL/PLANT

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

WRITING PICTURE MAIL

MAKING MY PICTURE WINDOW

SELECTING LETTER PAPER

ADDRESS BOOK

ADDRESS REGISTRATION

TITLE

WHAT SHALL WE HAVE?

SENDER'S E-MAIL jedai@zzmail.co.kr

ATTACH FILE

CONFIRMATION

RECIPIENT'S E-MAIL pax@yahoo.com

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

HEY LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER TOMORROW?

LET'S HAVE LUNCH WITH ... I'M OK WITH HAMBURGER OR CHINESE FOOD

HOW ABOUT A FOOD?

OR...I'M OK WITH PIZZA

YOU SAID YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MCDONALD?

I'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO MY HOMETOWN BY TRAIN TODAY

PREVIEW

SENDING RESERVATION

2000

YEAR

5

MONTH

18

DAY

23

HOUR

30

MINUTES

440

490

450

480

460

5/6
FIG. 5

SEARCHING PICTURE

SEARCHING

MY PICTURE WINDOW

CHARACTER COLLECTION

TIME/SEASON/STAR

WEATHER

SEASON

TIME

CONSTELLATION

MEMORIAL DAY/ DAY OF THE WEEKEND

ACTION/EMOTION

PLACE/BUILDING

ANIMAL/PLANT


MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION


460


WRITING PICTURE MAIL


MAIL AMEND MENT


CHANGENG LETTER PAPER

HEY  LET 'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER TOMORROW?

LET 'S HAVE LUNCH WITH  ... I 'M OK WITH OR CHINESE FOOD


HOW ABOUT A  FOOD?

OR... I 'M OK WITH 

YOU SAID YOU WANT TO GO THE  ?

450

I 'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO MY HOMETOWN

BY  TODAY

480

TRANSMITTING PICTURE MAIL

SENDING RESERVATION

2000 YEAR 5 MONTH 18 DAY 23 HOUR 30 MINUTES

6/6
FIG. 6

SEARCHING PICTURE

SEARCHING

MY PICTURE WINDOW

CHARACTER COLLECTION

TIME/SEASON/STAR

WEATHER

SEASON

TIME

CONSTELLATION

MEMORIAL DAY/ DAY OF THE WEEKEND

ACTION/EMOTION

PLACE/BUILDING

ANIMAL/PLANT

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

WRITING PICTURE MAIL

MAKING MY PICTURE WINDOW

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ADDRESS BOOK

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WHAT SALL WE HAVE?

ATTACH FILE

CONFIRMATION

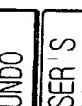





SENDER'S E-MAIL

jedai@zzmail.co.kr

RECIPIENT'S E-MAIL


pax@yahoo.com


MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION




UNDO

USER'S PICTURE

HEY  LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER TOMORROW?

LET'S HAVE LUNCH WITH  ... I'M OK WITH HAMBURGER OR CHINESE FOOD

HOW ABOUT A  FOOD?

OR... I'M OK WITH PIZZA

YOU SAID YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MCDONALD?

I'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO MY HOMETOWN BY TRAIN TODAY

CONVERTING

PREVIEW

SENDING RESERVATION

2000

YEAR

5

MONTH

18

DAY

23

HOUR

30

MINUTES

540

590

450

580

560

cket No. 2003-2004-2005

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